

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1. (Currently amended) Table olives ~~characterised~~ characterized in that they contain lactobacilli and/or bifidobacteria adhering on the pericarp.
2. (Currently amended) Olives according to claim 1 ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the lactobacilli are selected from *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* and *L. paracasei* and the bifidobacteria are selected from *Bifidobacterium bifidum* and *B. longum*.
3. (Currently amended) Table olives according to claim 2 ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the lactobacilli are selected from: *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* GG ATCC53103; *L. rhamnosus* IMPC 11; *L. rhamnosus* IMPC 19; *Lactobacillus paracasei* LMG P-22043; *Lactobacillus paracasei* IMPC 4.1 and that the bifidobacteria are selected from *Bifidobacterium bifidum* ATCC15696 and *Bifidobacterium longum* ATCC15708.
4. (Currently amended) Table olives according to claim 3 ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the lactobacilli belong to the strain *Lactobacillus paracasei* deposited with the Belgian Coordinated Collections of Microorganisms under accession number LMG P-22043.
5. (Original) Probiotic food products comprising the table olives of any one of claims 1-4.
6. (Original) Use of lactobacilli and bifidobacteria to coat the pericarp of table olives.
7. (Original) *Lactobacillus paracasei* deposited with the Belgian Coordinated Collections of Microorganisms under accession number LMG P-22043.